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Security Council

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Letter dated 22 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you with reference to the letter of the Syrian regime's representative dated 5 July 2016. Through the baseless allegations made in that letter and several others to the same effect, the Syrian regime, as part of its campaign to distract the international community from its continued possession and use of chemical weapons, accuses Turkey and others of trying to "fabricate" evidence of the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons in Idlib.

The Syrian regime's chemical weapon attacks in Idlib and other parts of the country since 2013 amount to war crimes. The fact-finding mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has identified 20 cases of the use of chemical weapons in Idlib (see S/2015/138, S/2015/908 and S/2016/85). The OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism mandated by the Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) is investigating six of these cases (see S/2016/142).

The Syrian regime's continued possession and use of chemical weapons that are highlighted in various OPCW reports are gross violations of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions. In view of the regime's well-documented responsibility in these attacks, the international community needs to remain focused on holding responsible those who have committed or played a part in these grave crimes so that no such action is repeated.

We look forward to the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism's swift finalization of its investigation and expect the Security Council to impose measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations against the Syrian regime in the face of its non-compliance with Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and its violations of international law and its commitments thereunder.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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